

Heath's  
COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR  
AT SIGHT.



HEATH, LABAN

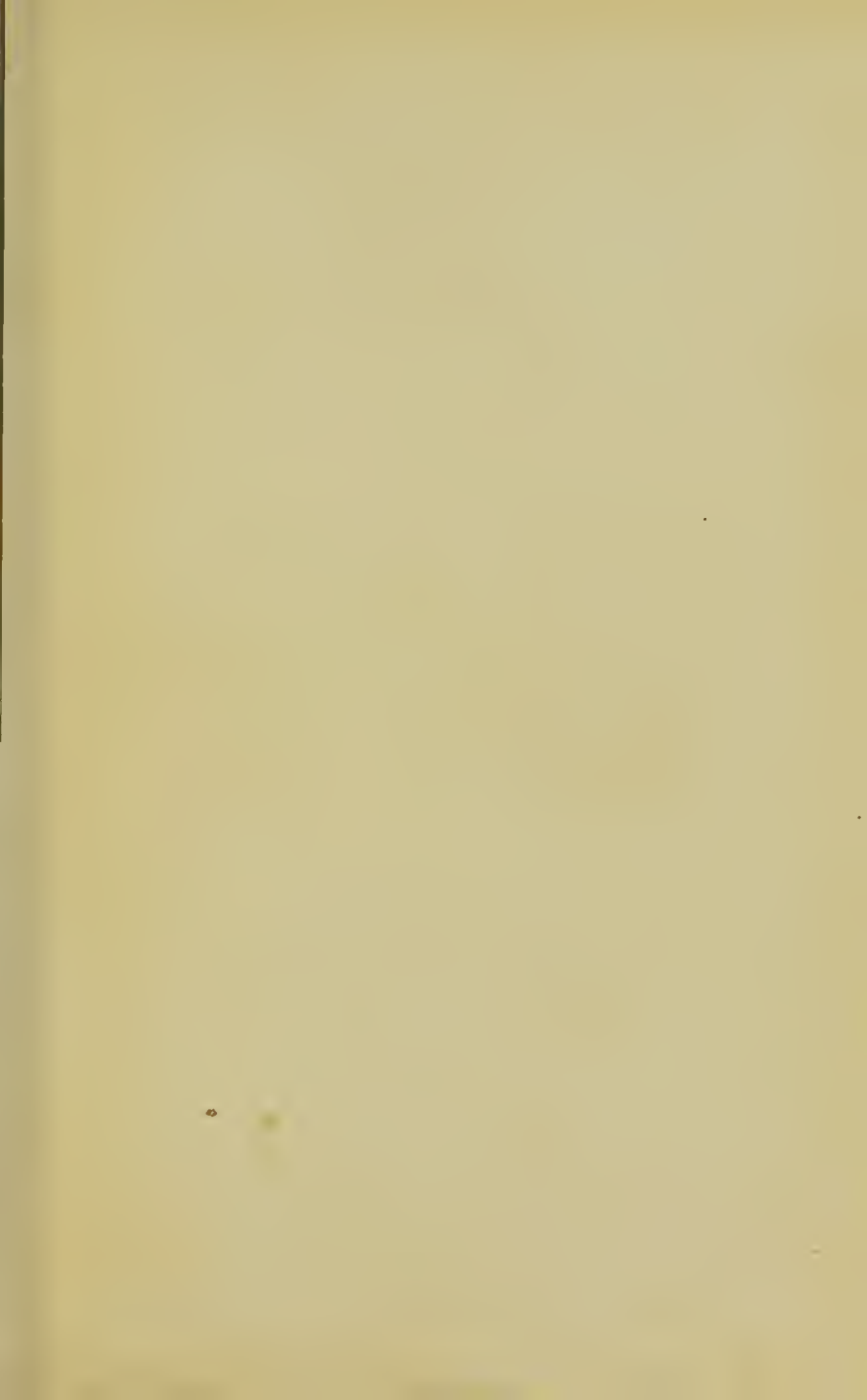
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Heath's Infallible Counterfeit Detector

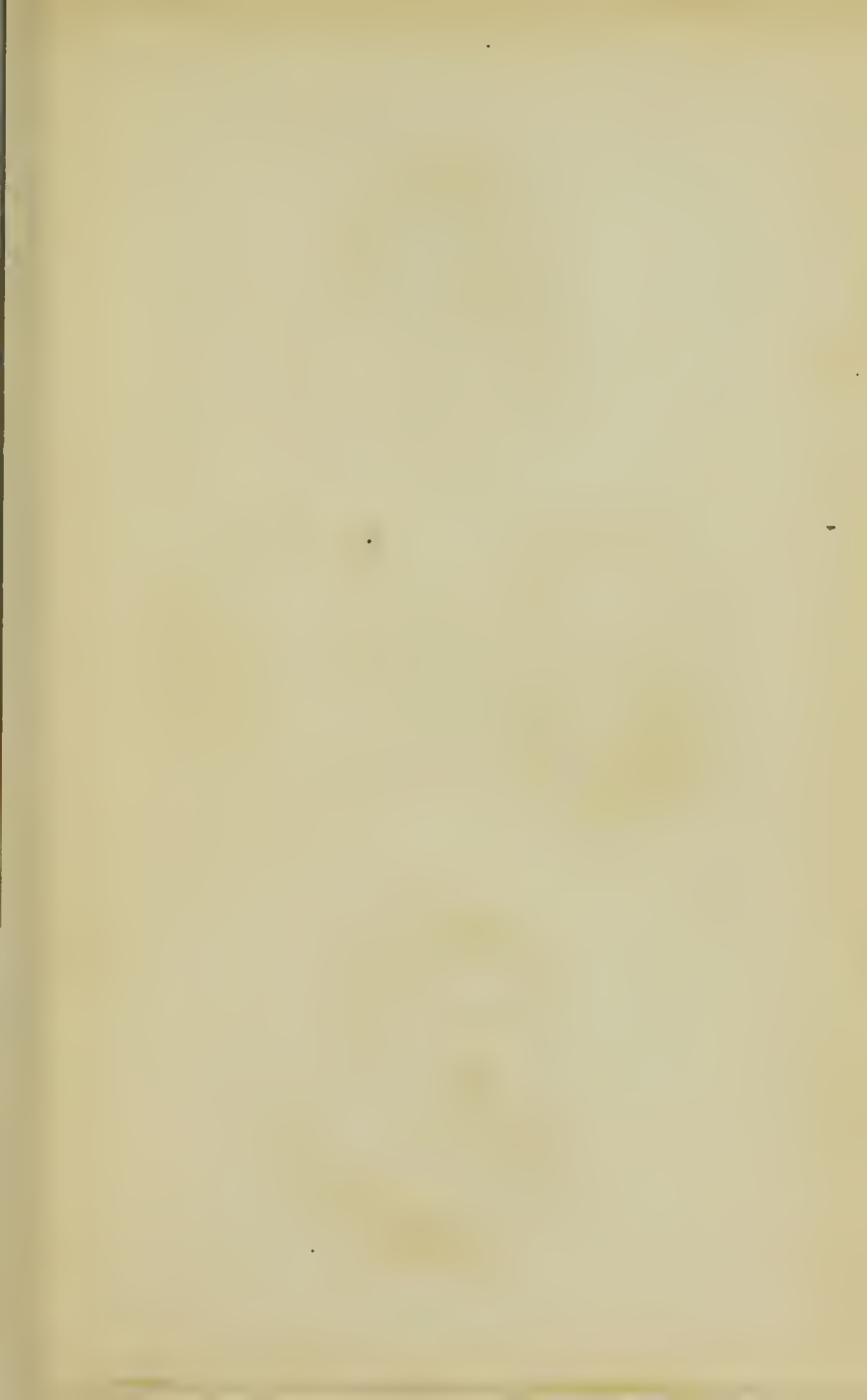
"Tenth Thousand", D. D. & M. (Boston n.d.)

Copyr. 1864, 32 numbered pp. with pp. 28-32 containing notices to Nov. 1, 1864, 10 engraved pl. of which 8 are numbered and last 2 are folded and tipped in. Dark brown cover with price omitted in gold lettering, 16½ cm, vf.

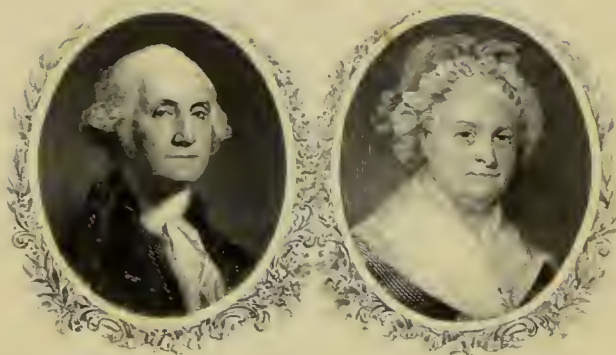








*Plate 6.*





HEATH'S  
INFALLIBLE  
**Counterfeit Detector**  
AT SIGHT.

THE ONLY INFALLIBLE METHOD OF DETECTING COUNTERFEIT, SPURIOUS, AND ALTERED BANK-NOTES,  
AND APPLICABLE TO ALL BANKS IN THE  
UNITED STATES AND CANADAS, AS  
NOW IN CIRCULATION, OR  
THAT MAY BE ISSUED,

WITH GENUINE BANK-NOTE DESIGNS,  
BY  
THE AMERICAN BANK-NOTE COMPANY,  
NEW YORK AND BOSTON.

*TENTH THOUSAND.*

BOSTON:  
PUBLISHED BY LABAN HEATH,  
TEACHER OF COUNTERFEIT DETECTING.  
A. WILLIAMS & CO., PUBLISHER'S AGENTS,  
100 WASHINGTON STREET.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1864, by

LABAN HEATH,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Massachusetts.

DAKIN, DAVIES, & METCALF,

Stereotypers and Printers,

37 CORNHILL.

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE object of this work is to furnish the public in a brief and comprehensive form with the means of detecting Counterfeit Bank-Notes at sight, — the same means employed by Engravers, Brokers, Cashiers, and other experts. Many a man, after taking half a dozen counterfeit bills, has thrown away his “Bank-Note Reporter” in disgust, feeling that there is no certain means of protection against this kind of fraud. The Reporters, however, are not at fault. They do all they profess to do; namely, give the *standing of the Banks*, and describe *known Counterfeits*. The same is true of the “Safeguards” and “Detectors,” describing all *genuine bills*. The difficulty lies in the fact that many counterfeits do not find their way into the Reporters for a long time, or they are rushed upon the community in various places at once, and the damage is done before there is time to warn the people. Many counterfeits also are such exact imitations of the genuine that no *description* can enable one to detect them. The only sure protection, then, is to possess the power of judging the *genuineness of the note* by the *quality of the work*. This knowledge has been reduced to fixed principles, so clear and simple

that any one can understand and apply them. Many ladies, under the tuition of the author, have become experts in detecting counterfeits; and all who have become acquainted with the author's mode of teaching the art have shown the deepest interest in it, and a desire to know still more. This fact, and a desire to furnish the community a protection against the enormous amount of spurious currency now afloat, have prompted the author to prepare the present work. The expense of the work has been very great, owing to the high cost of genuine engravings with which it is so profusely illustrated. It may also be remarked that the author has enjoyed peculiar facilities for procuring such engravings, which are obtained with great difficulty, owing to the misuse which might be made of them by counterfeiters; and he is thus able to apply the principles here taught to the United States and National Bank-Note currency, with full illustrations of the same.

The general principle upon which the detection of counterfeits is based is that *all parts of genuine notes are engraved by machinery*, — with some exceptions hereafter named, — while *all parts of counterfeit notes are engraved by hand*, with exceptions hereafter given.

The machines employed in engraving are very elaborate and expensive, thus placing them beyond the reach of counterfeiters, who, even if they had the capital, would hardly risk investing \$75,000 to \$150,000 in an illegitimate business which might be taken from them at any moment by the officers of the

law. The size and weight of such apparatus would also prevent concealment.

The work executed by the regular Bank-Note Companies is of great beauty and perfection, and in all its parts mathematically and geometrically exact. Engraving executed by hand, or even with the aid of some simple machinery, can never approach the beauty and exactness of genuine work. The success of counterfeiters in circulating their spurious issues is not at all due to any excellence of work that would deceive a practised eye, but to the general ignorance of the public as to what constitutes good and poor engraving; so general is this ignorance, that it is rare to meet a man who knows the object or character of the beautiful devices found upon every bank-note, and which are its only safeguard against counterfeiting. In judging of the genuineness of a note, some look carefully for pin-holes, others for signs of wear, and others still examine the paper,—all of which are easily imitated by counterfeiters.

In the engravings of this work will be found a *standard of excellence*, with which all genuine work will favorably compare; while counterfeits will fail to stand the test. A careful comparison will reveal their defects,—defects which will never be found in genuine work. Some works of similar character to this have attempted to give specimens of counterfeit engraving by means of wood-cuts. This, however, is impossible, as there is no standard for counterfeits, varying as they do from poor to excellent.

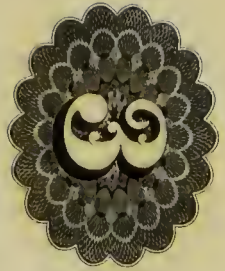
They are also produced by such various methods — photographic, lithographic, anaetatic, and engravings upon wood, copper, steel, and pewter, all differing from each other, but all equally poor when compared with the genuine — that it is not possible to give counterfeit illustrations with any degree of success, or that will not sooner mislead than assist. It is also better to accustom the eye to *good* engraving and then the poor will not impose upon it. The author therefore has deemed it better to furnish one *clear and unmistakable standard* with which all bank-notes may be compared.

The various kinds of work will be fully described in the following sections. They consist of —

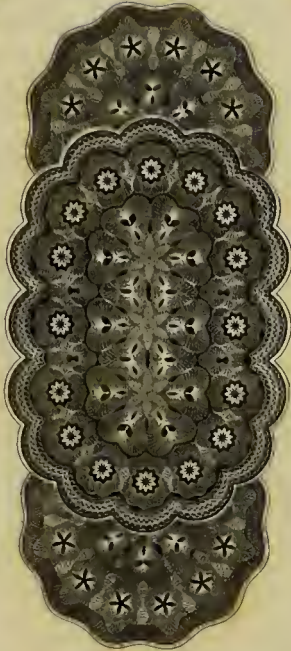
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| SEC. 1. Geometrical Lathe Work,                                 | } <i>Cannot be<br/>successfully<br/>imitated.</i> |
| “ 2. Ruling Engine Work,  |   |
| “ 3. Medallion Ruling Engine Work,                              |   |
| “ 4. Red Letters and Figures,                                   |   |
| “ 5. Vignettes,   |   |
| “ 6. Solid Print,   |   |
| “ 7. The Perkins Plate, <i>cannot be successfully imitated.</i> |   |

Then will be added —

- SEC. 8. Minor Rules,
- “ 9. Altered Bank-Notes,
- “ 10. General Directions,
- “ 11. Remarks.



*Plate I.*



*American Book Note Co. New York & Boston.*







# COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR.

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## SECTION FIRST.

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### GEOMETRICAL LATHE WORK.

*[Cannot be Successfully Imitated.]*

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ALL the figures on bank-notes, of circles, ovals, squares, etc., and upon which the denomination is usually placed (See Plate 1), are composed entirely of a *network of fine lines*, crossing each other at such angles and distances as to produce the desired effect. This *fine line* is the characteristic of this description of engraving, and in genuine work can be traced by means of a lens throughout the figure, never breaking or losing itself in another line, or pursuing any irregularity whatever. This line is usually white, on a black or green ground, or sometimes red ; but may be a black, green, or red line on white. This line is produced by the Geometrical Lathe, a wonderful and beautiful engine, invented by Mr. Asa Spencer, of Connecticut, and first introduced into general use in 1818-19. The patterns produced by the Geometrical Lathe are of every conceivable variety of form and figure ; but this *fine line* is the characteristic of them all.

The lathe does not engrave its patterns directly upon the bank-note plate, but upon pieces of soft steel one-eighth of an inch thick. This piece is then hardened by a peculiar process, and then a cylinder of soft steel is rolled over it by means of a powerful machine called the Transfer Press, and the engraving is transferred to the cylinder. This cylinder is then hardened, and is capable of transferring the same design to the bank-note plate, by means of the Transfer Press. In counterfeit engraving, on the contrary, the design is engraved directly upon the plate; and will fail in two ways. First, it will be impossible to produce the *perfect line* of the genuine, and the effect to the naked eye will be a more or less dull and sunken appearance, and sometimes a "scratchy" look. The figure will also be darker or lighter in spots, because the lines will be sometimes heavier and sometimes lighter. The lens will also show the lines to be imperfect; sometimes broken, irregular in size, and irregular in their course; and, second, it will be impossible to produce two dies exactly alike. In the genuine plate, when two dies occur alike, both are "transferred" from the same cylinder and *must* be alike; but in the counterfeit, each being separately engraved and by hand, it is *impossible* to produce two exactly alike. An examination of Plates 1 and 3, showing the more frequent forms of Geometrical Lathe dies, will show the beautiful, clear, raised impression produced by the correct lines of the genuine engraving. Sometimes the whole face of a note, except the vignettes



**AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO.**

*Plate 2*

**Bank of Michigan**

**ONE DOLLAR**

**TWO DOLLARS**

**ONE DOLLAR**

and dies, will be *tinted* a pale red or other color. This tint is composed of fine curved or looped lines, running across the whole face of the bill, and is done by the Geometrical Lathe. In the genuine it will be perfect in the lines and in the shades, like all lathe work, as described above; and the counterfeits will have the same imperfections, in the lines and in the shades, before described. In Plate 1 will be found five Geometrical Lathe dies, and one also in Plate 3,—in the middle of the upper row.

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## SECTION SECOND.

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### RULING ENGINE WORK.

[*Cannot be Successfully Imitated.*]

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THE *fine line* is also the characteristic of this kind of work; but the lines, instead of forming circles, are *parallel*. This work is always used for the *shading of letters* (see Plate 2), and forms a perfectly even pale gray shade. The lines are usually very fine in genuine work, so that the shading appears light. It may, however, be dark and yet be genuine.

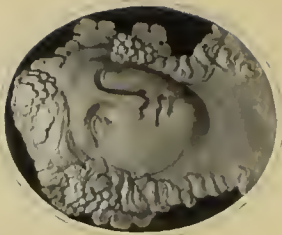
The engraving is produced and transferred in the same way as the Geometrical Lathe work, and the shade will always be uniform,—no part darker than another,—the lines will all be perfect, and the spaces between them exact. They may be horizontal, i. e.,

directly across the plate, or diagonal, running cross-wise the plate. In the counterfeit, this work, like all other, is engraved upon the plate by hand, aided sometimes, perhaps, by some simple and imperfect machinery.

Consisting of the fine line, like the Geometrical Lathe work, it will fail in the same particulars; namely, will be more or less dull and sunken, looking as though done with a lead-pencil, and may also have the "scratchy" appearance; and, second, it will be *impossible* to produce two letters with exactly the same shade. The first letters of the name will be lighter or darker than the middle or last ones. The lens will show the lines to be more or less coarse and uneven, frequently breaking, and sometimes ending too soon.

The lines are also liable to be crooked, — not perfectly parallel. Fine specimens of Ruling Engine work will be found in Plate 2. It is generally used, as there, for the shading of names of Banks, and also for the names of Town, State, etc. It is also used for the large letters across the face of some notes, indicating the denomination of the bill, as seen in Plate 5.

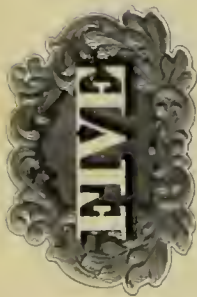




*Plate 5.*



American Bank Note Co. New-York & Boston





## SECTION THIRD.

## MEDALLION RULING ENGINE WORK.

[*Cannot be Successfully Imitated.*]

THE beautiful medallion heads, the raised shields, upon which the denomination of the note is sometimes placed (see Plate 3), and the raised work sometimes seen in the large letters V., 5, 3, etc., running across the face of the bill, are produced by this engine. The *fine line* is still the characteristic of this work, as of the two already described. The difference is that in the first the lines formed *circles* (eccentric, concentric, and geometric); in the second the lines were *parallel*; in this they are *waved*. A careful examination of the plate will show that in the dark places the lines approach nearer to each other; in the light places they separate more. This engine engraves from a pattern. A medal, or coin, or other prepared pattern, is placed in the machine as a "guide," and every undulation of this "guide" is copied by the machine with *unerring exactness*. The lines extend entirely through the figure, approaching and departing from each other, but never breaking. The engraving is then "transferred," as described in Section First. The effect of this is a beautiful *raised* appearance, with an almost *metallic* lustre and brilliancy, as may be seen in the plate. In counterfeits, this work, like all other, is engraved

upon the plate by hand, or possibly with the aid of some imperfect machinery. The result will be, that the lines will be found by a close examination to break off in the pattern, and sometimes to be forked, and also irregular in size, — some coarser and some finer, — and one line will not be of the same size throughout. The effect of this is that the engraving will have a *dull* and *sunken* appearance, — more like a wood-cut. The pattern also wants the ease and grace of the genuine. The *flat* expression will be the most striking. When used as a counter upon which to place the denomination, and there are two dies that pretend to be alike, they will be exactly alike, both being transferred from the same cylinder; while in counterfeits they will not be exactly alike, being done by hand at different times. The beautiful work of the Medallion Ruling Engine can be seen in Plate 3.

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#### SECTION FOURTH.

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##### RED LETTERS AND FIGURES.

[*Cannot be Successfully Imitated.*]

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MANY bank-notes have their denominations printed across the face, in colored letters, and sometimes figures. The color used is generally red, green, or blue. (See Plates 4 and 8.) The *fine line* is the characteristic of this description, as in the preceding

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*Plate 5.*





rules. It forms several patterns,—network, like fine lace, diamond in small squares, and several fancy patterns. Plate 8 gives an illustration of this kind of work. This work, on good bills, is printed on both sides, with two exceptions: first, when the letter is a block letter, i. e., has shading around the letter, making it stand out in relief (see Plate 4); second, when the note has a cheek back. The fancy patterns printed on both sides, as seen in Plate 8, are engraved by the Geometrical Lathe, and are the last things printed on the note. Sometimes the denomination is on a red die, and is not intended to show through. It should be remembered that red does not give so clear and raised an impression as black; it is apt to be a little blurred, even in genuine work, and much more so in counterfeits. The way in which the denomination is printed on both sides of a genuine note is this: In the first place, the die is covered with ink, and an impression is taken from that on a piece of thick paper; the note is then laid on that paper face up and the die stamped on the face; so that the back of the note takes the impression from the thick paper, and both sides being printed from the same die, one side will correspond with the other.

## SECTION FIFTH.

## VIGNETTES.

[*Can be Imitated.*]

See Plates 6 and 7.

THE four kinds of work previously described are always and invariably *machine work* in genuine bills, and therefore *cannot* be imitated successfully by the means in the hands of counterfeiters. Vignettes may be classed as the *artistic* part of Bank-Note Engraving, as the greater part of it is done by hand, and in all genuine work by first-class artists. Water and sky are sometimes done with the Ruling Engine, and when they are, come under Section Second, and cannot be successfully imitated. The only thing required for a first-class Vignette is a first-class artist; but as such artists receive high rates of compensation, and can usually find plenty of employment from the regular companies, counterfeiters can offer little temptation to induce them to work for them, and there is also little temptation for artists to become counterfeiters. It is therefore *rare* to see fine Vignettes on counterfeit notes. That good work is sometimes found upon such issues is, however, not to be denied; and some works of a similar character to this have taught people to rely too much upon the character of the Vignettes. Much is said about the appearance of the eyes, hair, skin, drapery, fingers,





Plate 7.



American Book Store Co. New York & Boston





toes, etc., leading people to suppose these are infallible. The plate gives fine specimens of first-class Vignettes, and all Vignettes which fail to compare well with these should cause the note to be carefully examined; but the style of Vignette should not be allowed to overturn judgment based upon the work described in the four first sections. If that be all genuine, an ordinary Vignette cannot make the bill counterfeit, and if that be counterfeit, no Vignette can make the bill genuine. The portraits in Plate 6 were executed by men at the head of their profession, and are exceedingly lifelike and beautiful. Counterfeiters oftener fail in portraits than in out-door scenes, — giving them generally a sunken and lifeless expression. Plate 7 consists of out-door scenes.

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## SECTION SIXTH.

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### SOLID PRINT.

*[Can be Imitated.]*

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IN genuine work the lettering is done by a first-class artist, who makes it his exclusive employment, and therefore arrives at a high degree of perfection. The name of the Engraving Company is always engraved upon the genuine with great care and accuracy. It will be found on the upper or lower margin of the bill. In counterfeits, it is more or less irregular and uneven. The chief use of solid print is

to prevent alterations, as will be hereafter explained. It is classed as capable of imitation, because a good artist can engrave it for counterfeiters, if so disposed, as well as for the regular engraving companies. A specimen of solid print will be seen at the bottom of Plate 2. Much has been said in some "Detectors" about the lettering of "Promise to pay," etc., as being nearly infallible. The truth is, however, that this is of little value, being frequently very neatly done in counterfeit notes. Some bank-bills have the denomination of the bill engraved in very fine letters across the whole or part of the face of the bill, — one dollar, one dollar, one dollar, etc. (See Plate 4.) This, in the genuine, produces a perfectly even shade of black, green, red, or otherwise, according to the color of ink used, but in the counterfeit cannot be so well produced; and, therefore, the shade will be lighter in some places and darker in others. This is *nearly* infallible.

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## SECTION SEVENTH.

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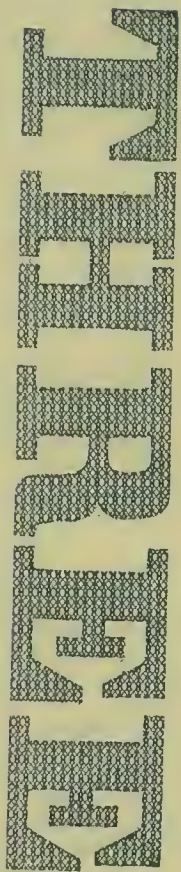
### THE PERKINS PLATE.

[*Cannot be Successfully Imitated.*]

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THE Perkins Stereotype Plate is an Engine Ruled die; and in the face of the note does not differ from other work of this kind, as described in Section Second. Its chief characteristic is the *check back*,

Plate 8.



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composed of various sizes and kinds of type, thrown together in a most confused manner, and then arranged in ovals, bars, etc., covering the back of the note. It is usually printed in reddish-brown or black ink, and has never been successfully imitated. For some cause, however, it is not in very general use, partly, perhaps, because the more beautiful designs of the Geometrical Lathe have superseded it. The people like, not only a *genuine* bill, but a *beautiful* one.

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## SECTION EIGHTH.

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### MINOR RULES.

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WE will now give some indications which, though not infallible, are important.

#### Printing.

Genuine bank-notes are always printed with great care. The plate is covered with ink, which is then carefully wiped off, excepting what remains in the lines of the engraving; the impression is then taken with a powerful press, with great care and accuracy. This gives a clear and beautiful impression, which will be more or less wanting in counterfeits.

#### Ink.

The ink used in genuine bank-note printing is of peculiar quality, and very difficult for counterfeiters to obtain. If black, it gives a clear, glossy impres-

sion, without any *smutty* appearance, such as is sometimes seen in counterfeits. The green ink used in government work is *almost* impossible to imitate; and the red and other colors are almost as difficult. Genuine ink of any color has a more or less clear and *glossy* appearance, while counterfeit inks look dull and muddy.

#### Paper.

Genuine bank-notes are printed upon paper composed of silk and linen, in varying proportions, and it is usually of good quality. It varies much in thickness, — it being sometimes very thin. Persons who are not acquainted with paper sometimes pronounce the *thin* paper poor. We have seen one of the beautifully engraved notes of the Suffolk Bank, Boston, looked upon with suspicion by persons unacquainted with the art herein taught, simply because the paper *was thin*. It is also not impossible for counterfeiters to procure good paper. Out of twelve counterfeit notes now lying before us, four are upon *very* poor paper, two upon rather poor paper, and *six* upon *very good* paper; one at least of the latter is upon paper of the *first quality*. It will be seen, therefore, that the paper though important is not infallible.

#### Signatures.

The only thing counterfeit about a bill sometimes is the signatures, the notes having been stolen before they were signed. There can be, of course, no sure protection against this for all. Those who are well



acquainted with the signatures of the officers of the bank where bills are stolen, may not be deceived, as imitated signatures have a more or less cramped and unsteady appearance; but those who live at a distance cannot possess this knowledge.

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## SECTION NINTH.

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### ALTERED BANK-NOTES.

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BANK-NOTES are altered in two ways: first, by raising the denomination; second, by changing a genuine bill on a broken bank to a good bank.

Denominations are altered, first, by pasting. Figures or letters of larger denominations are pasted over the denomination of the note to be altered, first scraping the genuine until thin. This can frequently be discovered by simply examining it with a little care, and always by holding the suspected note up to the light, when, if pasted, the pasted parts will be darker, because thicker.

Second, by taking out the denomination of the genuine with an acid, and printing in a higher with a counterfeit die. In this case, the ink will not be the same as the original, as explained in Section Eighth; neither will the work compare with the original. If solid print, it will not be as exact and perfect; and if the original is shaded, the shading of the counterfeit part will have the faults described in Section Second.

For instance, the words ONE DOLLAR may be changed to FIVE DOLLARS. In that case the *five* will be engraved by hand, and the *dollar* by genuine means; an S must also be added, and the work will appear crowded.

Another indication is, that the acid will spread a little, taking out more than the counterfeiter intended, so that parts of the neighboring letters will be more or less injured. The paper also will be either bleached or stained by the acid, as can be seen most plainly upon the back.

Whenever there are red letters, as described in Section Fourth, they will offer an additional safeguard against alterations. They are *always printed upon the note last*, and therefore will be *over* the other work, while any alteration will have to go on *the red*.

In the United States bills, the ones, twos, and threes, have a circle of green lines radiating from the denomination. This circle can be found on no larger notes than threes, if genuine. This is an additional safeguard against altering United States notes. The solid print will also be found defective, as described in Section Sixth.

The second kind of alteration, that of broken banks to good ones, sometimes requires a close examination to detect them; but a good understanding of the principles here taught will secure any one from deception. To make this change, the *name of the Bank* and signatures of the officers, *always* have to be

removed, and new ones inserted, and generally the *name of the Town* and sometimes of the *State* are also changed. These must be removed by acid, and the work inserted will be counterfeit, and will be recognized as such by an application of the principles already taught. If the letters are shaded, it will be done by hand and not by the Ruling Engine, and will have the imperfections described in Section Second. If Solid Print, the counterfeit will have the faults given in Section Sixth. Sometimes only a part of the name is changed, and then the contrast between the counterfeit and the part not changed is more evident. There will also be marks of the acid, the same marks mentioned above, and the counterfeit signatures are apt to be faded, from some acid remaining in the paper, after removing the original signature. If there are red letters upon the bill, the alteration will be still more evident, because the red will be more or less injured by the acid, and the added parts will be *upon the red* instead of *under* it, as the genuine are.

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## SECTION TENTH.

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### GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

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IN receiving bank-bills, first look at the general appearance of the bill,—casting your eye across the bill,—and if anything is wrong, it will probably

catch your eye. Then examine the various parts more perfectly, examining the Geometrical Lathe work, and if necessary, compare it with Plate 1, in this work. Then examine the shading of the letters, — the Ruling Engine work, — and look for any indication of alteration in the title or denomination of the note. Then if there are any Medallion Heads or Shields, or other Medallion Ruling, compare it with Plate 3, and examine the lines. If there is any Red Letter work, intended to appear on both sides, examine it first carefully upon the face to see the character of the work, and then turn the note and examine the back, noticing whether the printing on both sides is precisely alike, or whether it varies in any part, in which case it will be of course counterfeit. Then examine the Vignettes and Portraits, noticing whether their style and perfection compare well with the standard work of Plates 6 and 7. If there is Engine Ruling in the sky or water, you will have an additional proof. An examination of the Solid Print and engravers' names will confirm the decision, whatever it may be; and the Printing, Ink, and Paper, may also be considered in making a full decision. Such an examination of a note, with a very little practice, and a frequent reference to these standard plates, will secure any man of ordinary observation and intelligence against deception.

## SECTION ELEVENTH.

## REMARKS.

WE would like to add here a few suggestions, hints, and items, which, although important, could not be added elsewhere without confusing the mind of the learner.

## Genuine Dies on Counterfeit Bills.

A genuine Lathe Die will sometimes be seen on a counterfeit bill. The die so used may have been stolen, although that is very difficult to do, as all such work is guarded by the best of safes and other protections, or it may be one of the lot that was sold at auction in New York, in 1841, and some of which fell into the hands of counterfeiters. These dies, however, do not render the *other* work genuine. The Ruling of the letters, Solid Print, in short all the other work on the bill will be counterfeit,—and a *single piece of counterfeit work* condemns the bill. Some of those auction dies were Vignettes,—so that even the Geometrical Lathe dies and Vignette may be genuine work, yet the Ruling and other work will be enough to condemn the note.

## Check Backs.

The work upon the back of bills is usually done by the Geometrical Lathe (except the Perkins Plate), and therefore comes under Section First. A beautiful

specimen of Check Back is seen upon the Government notes, the "green-backs;" we mention it here to remark that bills with check backs are rarely altered or counterfeited. If counterfeited, the check back is often omitted. In attempting to alter such bills, the acid strikes through and destroys part of the back, which cannot be replaced. If the alteration be in the denomination, it will have to be altered in the back, also, as it is usually expressed there, and such an alteration would be likely to stain through upon the face.

It will sometimes be noticed that two bank-notes that should be alike differ somewhat in size, one being a little shorter than the other; and this may excite some suspicion. It is owing, however, to a little shrinkage of the paper, after printing, and happens as often to genuine bills as any.

#### Piecing.

Sometimes Counterfeiters make ten bills of nine, by cutting a counterfeit note into ten pieces; one of these pieces is pasted into a genuine bill, cutting out a piece of the genuine of the same size. In pasting nine genuine bills in this manner, nine pieces are obtained, which, with one piece of counterfeit, will make a tenth bill, which is the profit. Banks will redeem the genuine parts of such bills at their fractional value. This operation is not a very successful one, as the difference between the counterfeit and the genuine will be very evident to any one who pos-





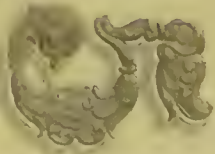
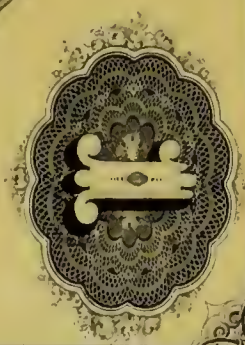
*The only correct method of obtaining*

(( Counterfeit Money ))

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LAVAN HOOKER

American Book Store Co. New-York & Boston







sesses a knowledge of the art here taught. To hide this difference, they generally deface the counterfeit part somewhat, and give the note a worn appearance.

The new National Currency, which will probably sooner or later take the place of all other issues, except United States Notes, is supposed by some to be entirely secure from counterfeiting, and, therefore, that no knowledge of detecting will be necessary, and no care in receiving such bills will be required. Such, however, is not the case. It is true that the remarkable excellence and abundance of the work upon the Government and National Currency, and the difficulty of imitating the green, will render counterfeiting very difficult. It should be remembered, however, that this Currency offers *great inducements* to counterfeiters, and a successful counterfeit will repay great outlay and care,—for two reasons: first, the green-backs will go anywhere in the United States, and if a counterfeit becomes known in one State or section, it can be taken to another; while counterfeits on local banks, when once known, are killed; and second, a plate may be prepared to counterfeit the currency of the National Bank in one town, may be run upon that till known, and then with simply a change in the title of the bank, be immediately changed to another bank, and thus, as fast as it becomes known, can go through all the banks in the United States.

The fifty cent postal currency is already freely

counterfeited ; yet hundreds of such counterfeits pass without any question, where the application of the first rule in this work would detect the fraud : the Lathe work would condemn them in an instant.

These facts are not mentioned to depreciate our new Currency in any way, but to warn the public against a false security, and thus most effectually head off the rascally authors of counterfeit issues, by forewarning and forearming the people. Every man, woman, and child, has occasion to handle more or less money ; and if all would possess themselves of the knowledge here taught, counterfeiting would soon become a profitless business. We want to see a knowledge of this art in every place of business, yes, in every house and cottage in the country. It has long been our business and our pleasure to forewarn and defend the people against the miscreants who tamper with the commercial life-blood of the nation ; defrauding the poor, the widows, and the fatherless, of their scanty store, and giving to all vexation and loss in place of security and profit ; and we hope to still further disarm and paralyze them, by a more general diffusion of the knowledge of this art, by means of this little work. Vigilant officers of police may do much to guard the community, but their most pains-taking vigilance is not always successful ; while a general knowledge of *detecting bank-notes by the engraving* will root out the very fangs of the *serpent*, — *Counterfeiting*.



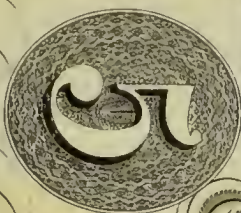
IN THE BANK DEPARTMENT.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND, LONDON.

1854

1854

Register



Bank of England



1854

Five Pounds

OR BEEAN'S



Cash

Post

FIVE

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mer.

For the purpose of more fully illustrating the difference between genuine and counterfeit engraving, we have at great trouble and expense obtained a counterfeit plate engraved by counterfeiters and taken from them at the time of their arrest. This plate is in the hands of the American Bank Note Company, from which these specimens are printed. Plate 9 is a beautiful specimen of engraving by the American Bank Note Company. The geometrical lathe work in each corner of the note, and medallion ruling work which encloses the title are exceedingly beautiful, and shows at once the impossibility of counterfeiters ever obtaining the beauty found on this plate. The die on the left-hand corner is similar to those on the 5's and 20's of the United States notes, and as they are both counterfeited very successfully, it will prove of great importance to every one in detecting them. Plate 10 is the counterfeit plate already referred to, and is pronounced by all an excellent specimen of counterfeit work.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

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OFFICE OF AMERICAN BANK-NOTE COMPANY, }  
BOSTON, June 23, 1864.

THE "Counterfeit Detector," published by Mr. Heath, is all that it purports to be. The engravings, by which it is illustrated, are the true standard of work to be found on genuine notes. I fully approve of the work.

ISAAC CARY, *Manager.*

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SUFFOLK BANK, BOSTON, }  
June 21, 1864.

I HAVE examined the "Counterfeit Detector" just issued by Mr. Laban Heath. The ability to detect Counterfeit and Altered Notes is the result only of experience in the application of fixed rules, which he very clearly explains. I consider it the best work on the subject ever offered to the public.

E. R. RUSSELL, *Foreign Money Teller.*

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BANK OF MUTUAL REDEMPTION, }  
BOSTON, June 21, 1864.

I CONSIDER Mr. Heath's "Counterfeit Detector" a valuable work. A study of the rules laid down by him for the detection of Counterfeit and Altered Bank-Notes will enable any person to become a good judge of money.

C. B. BRADBURY,  
*Supt. Foreign Money Dept.*



## FROM HUNT'S MERCHANTS' MAGAZINE.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1864.

**HEATH'S INFALLIBLE COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR AT SIGHT.** The only infallible method of detecting counterfeit, spurious, and altered bank-notes, and applicable to all banks in the United States and Canadas, as now in circulation or that may be issued, with genuine bank-note designs, by the American Bank-Note Co. Boston : **LABAN HEATH.** 1864.

ANY reliable method of detecting spurious notes in these days of paper currency, when counterfeiting might almost be said to form a regular business, is a matter of importance to every individual ; how much more so is it, when the method is so simple as to be understood by every one who will take the trouble to examine it, and so infallible as to detect the most carefully-prepared counterfeit, even on the first application of the test. Mr. HEATH's method for detecting bad bills requires no knowledge of the different banks, which are scattered, as thick as blackberries, all over the country ; but the fineness of the work is made to tell whether the bill is good or bad. Genuine bank-notes are prepared by one or the other of the great Bank-Note Companies, whose machinery is exceedingly costly, and whose engraving is of the very finest description. No engraving done by hand can equal that done by this machinery, and no counterfeiter would care to invest \$75,000 to \$150,000 in an illegitimate business, which, if discovered — and on account of the bulk of the machinery it would be difficult to conceal it — would not only result in a total loss of capital, but subject him, also, to a criminal's punishment. There are, also, ways given to detect altered bills, and the book is illustrated by very beautiful specimens of bank-note engraving. It will be found very useful to those who would rather carry good than bad money in their pockets.

## NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

**THE COUNTERFEIT DETECTOR.** — Mr. Laban Heath, teacher of counterfeit detecting, has published a book, describing the method by which counterfeit and altered bank-notes may be known at once. The work has been commended by the Suffolk Bank and Bank of Mutual Redemption in this city, and contains much valuable information, especially for young men who are qualifying themselves to be cashiers in large houses. All parts of genuine notes, with a few exceptions, are engraved by machinery, while nearly all parts of counterfeit notes are engraved by hand, because the machines are too expensive and too cumbersome for a business which has to be carried on in secret, and may at any time be broken up by the police. The machine does its work neatly and exactly ; the result of the workman's labors is rough and unfinished, and presents radical blemishes which can be detected by the practised eye. The application of this principle is explained by Mr. Heath, with the aid of illustrations executed by the American Bank Note Company. — *Boston Daily Advertiser.*

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**DETECTION OF SPURIOUS BANK NOTES.** — An infallible guide to aid in the detection of counterfeit bank-notes has long been desired by business men. Mr. Laban Heath has recently published a little volume which seems to entirely satisfy this want. In compiling this book he has been favored with engravings from the Bank Note Co., with which he is enabled to give to every merchant and accountant a standard of genuine bank-note engravings, by which he may compare all bills coming into his hands, and readily detect the worthless. This system has received the highest testimonials and therefore is entitled to the greatest confidence. — *Portland Daily Press.*



## FROM CASHIERS OF BANKS IN BANGOR.

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TRADERS BANK, BANGOR, }  
Sept. 20, 1864.

It concerns every person to know whether the money he is handling every day is counterfeit or genuine.

The idea generally prevails that only the few experienced money dealers, and professional experts, are capable of distinguishing the good from the bad. But the system taught by Mr. LABAN HEATH establishes the fact that every person may readily acquire the art.

As an aid to the living teacher, I consider the little Manual prepared by Mr. Heath invaluable; and indeed its instructions and explanations are so clear and full, and the engraved illustrations so perfect, that its thorough study will enable any person to determine the character of any paper money at sight.

E. TRASK, *Cashier.*

WE fully concur in the foregoing sentiments expressed by Mr. Trask.

WM. J. LORD,	Cashier of Veazie Bank.
JOHN WYMAN,	" " First National Bank.
M. T. STICKNEY,	" " Merchant's Bank.
JOHN S. RICKER,	" " Mercantile Bank.
T. S. DODD,	" " Kenduskeag Bank.
W. H. MILLS,	" " Eastern Bank.
W. H. PARSONS,	" " Farmer's Bank.
W. S. DENNETT,	" " Second National Bank.

## FROM BANK OFFICERS.

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CHICOPÉE BANK, SPRINGFIELD, }  
NOV. 1, 1864.

I HAVE examined the "Counterfeit Detector" published by L. Heath. I think it is one of the best works ever published, to detect counterfeit money.

I do not hesitate in recommending it to all business men, or persons that handle bank-bills.

LEWIS WARNER, *Teller.*

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MANUFACTURERS AND TRADERS BANK, }  
PORTLAND, June 28, 1864.

WE consider Mr. Heath's work a valuable aid to any one who will examine the principles of engraving, and compare counterfeit bills with the true. With this help, careful study and attention will enable most young persons to become good judges of paper currency.

E. GOULD, *Cashier.*

W. H. STEPHENSON, *Cashier Mech. Bank.*

WM. EDW. GOULD, *Cashier Inter'l Bank.*

GEO. C. PETERS, *Teller Canal Bank.*

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BANK OF CUMBERLAND, }  
PORTLAND, July 1, 1864.

I HAVE examined the "Counterfeit Detector," published by Mr. Heath, and consider it a very valuable aid in the detection of counterfeit bills.

SAM'L SMALL, *Cashier.*











